

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 AGR-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:JRICHARDSON:DE

APPROVED BY EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR

ARA/CEN:GGOWEN (DRAFT)

ARA/ECP:ABERRY (DRAFT)

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O 022256Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 293972

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: 1977 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED THE DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH PRINCIPAL MEAT EXPORTERS BILATERAL RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS COVERING MEAT EXPORTS TO THE US DURING 1977. THIS DECISION REPRESENTS A STRONG DETERMINATION TO TERMINATE THE CURRENT QUOTA REGIME. CONTINUING LARGE POTENTIAL WORLD MEAT SUPPLY AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER MAJOR MARKETS MAKE UNRESTRICTED IMPORTATION UNFEASIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL FOR TRIGGERING QUOTAS IN 1977 IS ABOVE THE 1976 LEVEL.

2. GIVEN THE CONTINUING DIFFICULT SITUATION THAT CONFRONTS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE US CATTLE INDUSTRY, THE DEPARTMENT IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE

PRESSURE TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE 1977 PROGRAM BEFORE THE CLOSE OF 1976. THEREFORE, WE HAVE INVITED GOVERNMENTS DESIROUS OF EXPORTING MEAT TO THE US IN 1977 TO DESIGNATE DELEGATIONS WITH AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE - AND CONCLUDE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS FOR MEAT FOR 1977. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 6 THROUGH DECEMBER 15.

3. OPENING SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IN WASHINGTON AT 10 O'CLOCK MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, IN ROOM 1105 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2200 C STREET, N.W. THIS WILL BE A PLENARY SESSION DURING WHICH THE US REPRESENTATIVE WILL OUTLINE THE PARAMETERS OF THE 1977 PROGRAM. AT THIS SESSION FOREIGN DELS WILL BE INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR COMMENTS ON THE 1977 PROGRAM.

4. BILATERAL SESSIONS WILL FOLLOW WITH FOUR US TEAMS WORKING SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 15. WE THEREFORE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE DELS PLAN TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED, WITH DECEMBER 15 OUR ESTIMATE OF THE LATEST DATE TO WHICH NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE EXTENDED.

5. DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED BELIZE PARTICIPATION WITH AN OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 2. THAT EMBASSY IS UNDERTAKING TO ARRANGE A DELEGATION FROM BELIZE TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN AN AGREEMENT. ROBINSON

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